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LETTER DATED 20 JULY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to our letter dated 21 June 1993 (S/25925), and on instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith for your kind attention a letter from Dr. Hussein Suliman Abu Salih, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, concerning the aggression of the Government of the Republic of Egypt on the Sudanese region of Halaib and the area south of Argin.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ali Mohamed Osman YASSIN
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 11 July 1994 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to our letters addressed to you on the subject of the aggression by the Arab Republic of Egypt against the Sudanese region of Halaib, the most recent of which was that of 18 May 1993 (S/25925, annex), we should like hereunder to inform the Council of subsequent developments.

In an attempt to contain the crisis in the bilateral framework, Lieutenant-General Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, President of the Sudan, and Mr. Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, President of Egypt, met on 29 June 1993 in conjunction with the session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity then being held in Cairo. They agreed that the dispute between the two countries must be contained and that the endeavour must be made to resolve it through negotiations. They further agreed that their Ministers for Foreign Affairs should meet to discuss all unresolved issues between the two countries, including the boundary dispute.

At the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt, the Ministers' first meeting was held in Cairo from 26 to 30 July 1993. Its objective was to relieve the tension that had arisen in relations between the two countries by ensuring abstention from any action that might increase such tension. At that meeting, the Egyptian side requested that discussion of the boundary dispute be deferred to the Ministers' next meeting, which, it was agreed at that time, was to be held in Khartoum in September 1993.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan accordingly extended an invitation to his Egyptian counterpart to attend a second meeting in Khartoum from 13 to 16 September 1993. However, the Egyptian Minister for Foreign Affairs declined because of scheduling difficulties and proposed that the meeting should be held in October 1993 instead.

Sudan then extended an invitation to the Egyptian side for meetings to be held from 14 to 18 October 1993, but Egypt declined and requested another postponement until November or December 1993. Sudan continued to press for the meeting to be held in Khartoum, but the Egyptian side did not even take the trouble to reply to the invitation.

The Egyptian Government has not been content to withhold its response to the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Sudan to hold the meeting between the two parties in Khartoum but has proceeded in a systematic manner not only to consolidate its presence in the disputed Halaib region but also to establish a presence for the first time to the south of latitude 22 degrees north in the Arqin border area near the city of Wadi Halfa on the River Nile. Egypt affirms that this is the dividing line between the two countries, and this is an area that has never been in dispute between them, as is clear from the attached map. The military and administrative violations committed by Egypt are set forth hereunder.

A. Military violations in the Arqin area

1. On 31 July 1993, an Egyptian force of two officers and 23 men entered the village of Arqin. They had with them surveying equipment, and they claimed that they were engaged in a survey of the boundaries. They withdrew from the locality after erecting a sign on which were written the words "Boundaries demarcated in 1981".

2. On the same day, another Egyptian force entered Arqin and raised the Egyptian flag.

3. On 16 August 1993, an Egyptian force penetrated 5 kilometres south of the 22nd parallel, established a camp, raised the Egyptian flag and erected a border sign.

4. On 25 August 1993, the Egyptian force was increased from 20 to 31 persons.

5. On 27 August 1993, the Egyptian forces placed two barrels in a straight line on the east bank of the Nile in front of the home of a Sudanese national and opposite the Egyptian post that they had previously established on the west bank.

6. On 15 and 16 December 1993, an Egyptian military force established two new camps, one to the east and one to the west of Arqin, and Sudanese nationals were prevented from crossing in a northerly direction.

7. On 6 June 1994, an Egyptian aircraft violated Sudanese airspace in the Wadi Halfa area.

B. Military violations in the Halaib area

1. On 2 July 1993, a group of young people from Abu Ramad was on its way to take part in a sports competition on the anniversary of the revolution of national salvation when they were prevented from crossing by the Egyptian forces.

2. On 7 July 1993, the Egyptian forces began to search Sudanese nationals at the barriers set up in and before Abu Ramad and to prevent some of them from passing.

3. On 30 September 1993, two Egyptian aircraft flew over the Muhammad Qawl area inside Sudanese territory and photographed it. On the same day, four Egyptian aircraft were seen in the area of Marsa Rawina.

4. During October 1993, the Egyptian forces commenced construction of a building, which they called the Halaib Electricity Station, 5 kilometres south of Halaib.

5. On 5 November 1993, an Egyptian military aircraft flew over the Shalatin area three times. This was repeated on 21 December 1993. On 6 February 1994 two Egyptian helicopters flew over Sudanese territorial waters, and on 12 February 1994 they flew over Shalatin once again.

6. On 28 November 1993, the Egyptian forces began to conduct stricter searches at the gateway they had erected on the 22nd parallel. They also detained Sudanese commercial vehicles for long hours and harassed the drivers.

7. On 20 December 1993, the Egyptian forces brought pressure to bear on Sudanese tradesmen at the Shalatin market by restricting the supply of drinking water, and they accused them of cooperating with the Sudanese Government.

8. On 21 January 1994, an Egyptian naval vessel was seen moored off the shore of Halaib Island. During the same day, an Egyptian warship and destroyer approached and moored off Halaib.

9. On 23 January 1994, the Egyptian forces reinforced their presence in the western sector to the north of Halaib and dug a defensive position there.

They also detained a number of Sudanese and, at the same time, protested at the flying of the Sudanese flag in the area.

10. On 24 January 1994, another naval vessel, named Timsah II, appeared in the seaward approaches to Halaib.

11. On the same day, the Egyptian forces arrested nine Sudanese who were people from the Nuba mountains. They were released after interrogation.

12. On 29 January 1994, the Egyptian forces arrested the Sudanese national Isma'il al-Radi and held him for a number of days.

13. On 30 January 1994, the Egyptian forces carried out training manoeuvres in the Halaib triangle. They installed fortifications and concrete bunkers along the 22nd parallel.

14. On 31 January 1994, the Egyptian forces halted all Sudanese vehicles and prohibited them from entering and leaving the Halaib triangle.

15. On the same day, when Sudanese citizens and officials were returning from Marsa Oseif after welcoming Lieutenant-General Omer Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir, President of the Republic, on his visit there, the Egyptian forces detained them and prevented them from passing through the gateway on the 22nd parallel. The Egyptian forces took up position in trenches at the crossing, pointing their weapons at Sudanese citizens.

16. On 5 February 1994, the Egyptian forces in the Shalatin area conducted a tactical exercise and held manoeuvres in which armour and helicopters took part.

17. On 1 May 1994, the Egyptian forces carried out reconnaissance around Gebel Elba in the Halaib area.

18. On 3 May 1994, the Egyptian forces conducted naval manoeuvres close to Marsa Halaib.

19. On 14 May 1994, the Egyptian forces helped to smuggle a herd of 180 sheep into Egyptian territory and facilitated the smuggling of two truckloads of Sudanese mangoes.

20. On 17 May 1994, the Egyptian forces conducted firing exercises in the Halaib area, and they detained a Sudanese truck carrying a load of cement to Halaib.

21. On 30 May 1994, the Egyptian forces detained four Sudanese civilians, two customs officers and a tanker truck on the pretext of searching them.

22. On 7 June 1994, the Egyptian forces conducted firing exercises with miscellaneous weapons to the south of Gebel Alamat inside the Halaib triangle. They also made earth embankments in the area.

C. Administrative and press violations

1. On 12 November 1993, Mr. Yousuf Wali, Egyptian Minister of Agriculture, issued a decree establishing a commission for the development of the Halaib and Shalatin region in the agriculture and land-reclamation domain.

2. On 22 November 1993, the Local Council of the Egyptian Red Sea Province moved its place of meeting, for the first time, from the provincial capital of Ghardaqah to Shalatin.

3. On 27 November 1993, Major-General Abd al-Hamid Siraj al-Din, Mayor of Shalatin, announced that a new road was being built in the Halaib and Shalatin area at a cost of 75 million Egyptian pounds. He added that one hundred houses had been distributed among the inhabitants and that telephone communications had been provided. He further stated that the Governor, Yusri al-Shami, had opened a number of schools in the area and had laid the foundation stone for a youth centre in Shalatin, to be built at a cost of 85,000 Egyptian pounds, to serve the young people of the Halaib triangle and Shalatin.

4. At the end of November 1993, the Egyptian Minister of Works announced that a high commission would be established to protect the Egyptian shoreline all the way from Halaib to Salum.

5. On 13 December 1993, the Egyptian Ministry of Petroleum extended by three months the deadline for oil companies to complete the studies in the Halaib and Shalatin region necessary to obtain the approval of Parliament for the granting of an exploration concession.

6. On 5 January 1994, the Egyptian authorities brought seven fishing boats from the north to Abu Ramad and they were distributed by Egyptian intelligence authorities to local residents. A further eight boats were brought in by the Egyptian authorities on 3 February 1994.

7. On 6 January 1994, the official Egyptian newspapers reported that the Egyptian Electricity Corporation had completed the construction and equipment of three new electricity stations, at Halaib, Shalatin and Abu Ramad.

8. On 24 January 1994, the official newspaper Al-Ahram carried an announcement by the Minister of Housing that it had been decided to establish an industrial complex in the Halaib-Shalatin-Abu Ramad triangle and that a full-scale housing development plan had been drawn up for the area.

9. On 24 February 1994, the official newspaper Al-Ahram reported that the Egyptian Government had allocated a sum of 12 million Egyptian pounds for the expansion of education in the Halaib triangle by building four boarding and technical schools and facilities for teachers.

10. On 8 February 1994, the Legislative Committee of the Egyptian People's Assembly approved the amendment of the People's Assembly Act to establish a new electoral constituency of Halaib and Shalatin.

11. On 22 March 1994, the official newspaper Al-Akhbar reported that the Egyptian Minister of Transport and Communications would open the first stage of the 305-kilometre-long Barnis-Shalatin-Halaib road.

12. On 23 March 1994, the official newspaper Al-Jumhuriyah reported that the Egyptian Minister of Health had allocated the sum of 3 million Egyptian pounds for the construction of a village hospital at Shalatin and of health units at Abu Ramad and Halaib.

13. On 27 March 1994, the newspaper Al-Wafd reported that two water desalination plants had been built in the town of Shalatin.

14. On the same day, the newspaper Al-Akhbar reported that an urban development plan was currently being drawn up for the towns of Barnis, Halaib and Shalatin. It went on to state that Major-General Abd al-Mun'im Sa'id, Governor of Red Sea Province, had announced that the new plan included the allocation of 2.7 million Egyptian pounds for the construction of dams in the area for the retention of rainwater. He further stated that one thousand houses had been built in the town of Halaib for the resettlement of Bedouin.

15. On 30 March 1994, the Egyptian Minister of Culture announced that a committee of senior experts in his Ministry had elaborated an integrated programme of cultural activity for the Halaib-Shalatin-Abu Ramad area.

16. On 4 April 1994, the official newspaper Al-Akhbar reported that the Egyptian Minister of Housing would visit the Halaib-Shalatin-Abu Ramad area to inspect the construction of residential units and of water, sanitation and road projects.

17. On 14 May 1994, the newspaper Al-Alam al-Yawm, which is published in Egypt, reported that the Egyptian Ministry of Transport had engaged four Egyptian companies to increase the capacity of the Barnis-Halaib road.

You have perhaps noted from the foregoing review of developments that while the Egyptian Government has not sent a delegation to Khartoum for continued dialogue on the resolution of differences, as had been agreed by the two countries, it is adopting numerous and systematic measures to wage flagrant aggression against territory that Egypt does not own in law or in fact. This is confirmed by the demographic and geographical situation and by the agreements concluded on the Halaib region, the most recent of which is that signed by the Under-Secretaries at the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the two countries in October 1992 affirming that Halaib is in dispute. The matter has not stopped there, but the Egyptian Government has proceeded to go beyond the dispute concerning Halaib and has made an incursion into the Arqin area south of the 22nd parallel, which has never been an area in dispute between the two countries. This fact reflects and confirms the aggressive, expansionist and provocative nature of the Government of Egypt's policy.

The failure of the Egyptian Government to respond to the call for dialogue and for the resumption of negotiations and its adoption at the same time of far-reaching military, legislative and administrative measures in Sudanese territory, indicate that it does not want to settle the dispute by peaceful means and on a bilateral basis. The Government of the Sudan, which continues to exercise forbearance and self-restraint in its regard for the historical relations of brotherliness between the two countries, warns that a continuation of these aggressive measures may lead to armed confrontation between the two countries, which may threaten security and peace in the region. We therefore renew our call to the Security Council to meet its responsibilities in full by urging the Egyptian Government:

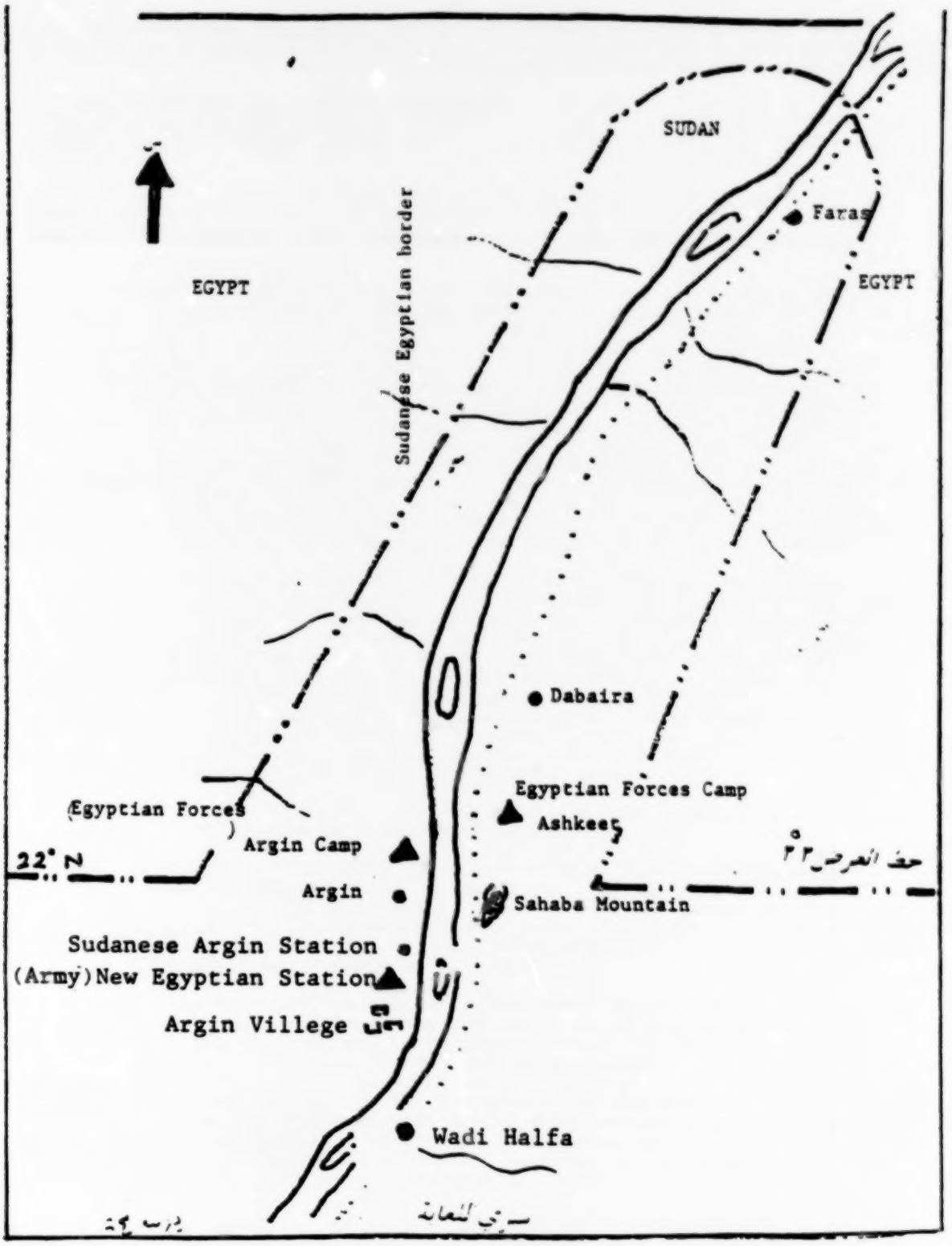
1. To rescind the military and administrative measures it has taken in the Halaib area and south of Arqin;

2. To make an immediate start on resolving the dispute through negotiations based on the previous agreement between the two countries and in accordance with Article 33, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that "The Security Council shall, when it deems necessary, call upon the parties to settle their dispute by such means".

In this context, the Government of the Sudan would like to reaffirm its concern that the dispute between the two countries be settled by peaceful means. As before, it continues to express its complete readiness to receive the Egyptian side in Khartoum in order to resume negotiations with a view to reaching a peaceful, speedy and comprehensive solution in the framework of the bilateral relations between the two countries. At the same time, the Government of the Sudan declares its readiness to settle this dispute by any of the means for the peaceful settlement of disputes set forth in Article 33, paragraph 1, of the Charter of the United Nations, including arbitration or judicial settlement through the International Court of Justice.

Lastly, Mr. President, we repeat our call to the Council to assume the role assigned to it in the maintenance of peace and security in an area whose people have long lived in peace and stability.

(Signed) Hussein Suliman ABU SALIH
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of the Sudan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